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January 30, 2006

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: *For* Bruce A. Chernof, M.D.
Acting Director and Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: **KING/DREW MEDICAL CENTER FIXED ASSET PROCUREMENT –
AGENDA ITEM 24**

The Department of Health Services (DHS) has received a number of questions about the process in place for the purchase of fixed assets at King/Drew Medical Center, associated with Item 24 on the January 31, 2006, Board agenda.

The primary inquiry related to the list of equipment that was attached to the Board letter and whether the inclusion of specific vendors indicates the Department is procuring the equipment from those specified vendors. The vendors on the list represent those with whom the clinical personnel in a particular area were familiar and obtained a price estimated for inclusion. The solicitation of each piece of equipment is managed through the Internal Services Department's (ISD) procurement process. Identification of a particular vendor on this list does not guarantee its selection; rather vendor selection will be determined, or has been determined, through ISD's open and competitive solicitation process.

A number of the items that appear on the list have been ordered due to the long lead-time in the manufacture and delivery in order to meet either construction associated with the renovations of the operating room or critical patient care needs.

A question also was raised regarding the recall of one of the pieces of equipment identified on the list – the Vapotherm 2000i Respiratory Gas Humidification device. This manufacturer's recall of this item occurred last fall, after the hospital had put together its list of requested equipment. Since the facility did not already own this product, it would not have received notification of the recall; however, even had the facility proceeded to purchase the device, the vendor could not have sold it as a result of the recall. King/Drew Medical Center is reviewing what other equipment might be available to meet its patient care needs, but has not yet identified another device that meets the desired specifications. The facility has requested that the funding remain in the budget adjustment, so there are adequate resources available when an alternate device is identified.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

BC:ak
Item 24

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors